

the column the Mayor boldly led the way to the field of battle, followed by an immense concourse of expectant citizens, who had been turned out by the fire alarm; but upon arriving at the scene of the disturbance it was found that the melee had ended, the circus tents had been folded, and the rioters were fast asleep.

In fact, nothing had happened that half a dozen policemen could not have quieted in ten minutes. The ridiculousness of the thing soon became apparent, and to-day the whole city has been in a prodigious grin at the Mayor's preposterous performance.

THE CROPS.

The Effects of the Drought.
MUSCATINE, IA.
Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune.
MUSCATINE, Ia., July 8.—The weather here is fearfully hot and dry. Everything in the shape of vegetation is wilting. The grass on my lawn, that a week ago looked so green and fresh, is now so dry that a fire would run over it. The

meadows are in the same condition. Small grain is gone up generally. All the rain that ever fell could not save it now. For three successive years I have sown down about 100 acres in grass, only to see it burn up after doing well and giving good promise of a crop. Here we have had three dry years in succession, and consequently the country has dried out, for with a drought and

that the ground has dried out for quite a depth, and that is the reason why vegetation succumbed so soon this year. Last season we had sufficient rain up to the 9th of July, when the drought set in. This year the dry, hot weather set in in May, and since then we have had only one wet spell. The early potatoes have taken the second growth. The strawberries have dried on the

times. The raspberries are drying up, even when heavily mulched. The few apples that were left us are falling off the trees, and the fruit-trees are dying by hundreds. But the feature most to be dreaded is the scarcity of water on the prairie-farms, as the small streams are drying up; and what people are going to do for their stock, I can't conceive. It is

bow the beginning of the usual dry season, and the thermometer is ranging high among the 90's. If we should be so fortunate as to get rain soon, it would save the corn and late potatoes, and furnish pasture for the stock; but, at the best, it is a sad prospect before the farmer; and how he is to meet his obligations and pay his taxes, is more than I can conceive.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.
EL PASO, Ill., July 7.—The drought here is fearful in the extreme, and there is no prospect for rain. The chinch-bug is eating oats, wheat, and corn, and the people are much discouraged at the general outlook of things.
WILLOW HILL, ILL.
Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.
WILLOW HILL, Jasper Co., Ill., July 6.—

Wheat is splendid. Oats and grass are not a half crop. Corn is almost ruined, on account of chinch-bugs and dry weather. Potatoes are slight. Fruit, a fair crop. Weather extremely dry.

WELLINGTON, ILL.
Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.
WELLINGTON, Ill., July 7.—The crop-prospects have changed somewhat for the worse. Corn is now suffering for rain, and is rotting badly. The

I also learn that adjacent to fields of fall or spring wheat the chinch-bugs have put in their appearance in force, and unless copious showers of rain shall fall soon, they will likely do no little damage; for, as soon as these bugs are

forced to leave the small grain, they fasten themselves upon the young and tender corn.

WATERTOWN, WIS.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WATERTOWN, Wis., July 7.—The continuous heat, coming down from a clear sky, accompanied by a wind that seems to rapidly absorb all moisture out of vegetation, is causing serious apprehensions as to its effects on the crops. Al-

Many many meadows or grass look withered and dead, where recently mowed, the stubble seems burnt and dried, destroying the roots. It is feared the maturing grain-holds will be materially damaged unless there is a change of weather soon. A rain is needed badly, but as yet there are no indications of such a check on the injury which the consuming sunshine is silently producing on everything now growing.

LANSING, MICH.
Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.
LANSING, Mich., July 7.—Wheat-harvesting has commenced in this vicinity. This week it will be general throughout the central portion of the State. Many farmers think that the crop will average a little over last year's. The weather at present seems favorable to prevent rust. The wool trade continues brisk; one buyer has

aken in 150,000 lbs this season, and he proposes to take in 140,000 more.

LAFAYETTE, IND.
Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.
LAFAYETTE, Ind., July 7.—The wheat harvest in this section is progressing rapidly, and bids fair to be much above the average.

CASUALTIES.

The Accident upon the Shore Line Railroad—An Expert's Explanation of How It Occurred.
Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.
SPRINGFIELD, Mass., July 7.—The accident upon the Shore Line Railroad yesterday was one of the most singular in the history of such

masters. An expert in railroad matters gives the following explanation of the way it occurred: Upon the Shore Line, to change the switch, the switch-tender goes into a small house connected with the switch, where the switch is set for the main line. When the switch is changed to connect with the side-track or turnout, the door to the switch-house is automatically closed, and

remains so till the switch is again set for the main line, when the door is opened so that the switchman can only enter or leave the switch-house when the main line is unbroken. At the time of the accident the switch-tender had gone into the switch-house and turned the switch upon the side track to take some cars.

of the train. After connecting with the car on the turnout the train started for New Haven, and with the exception of the rear truck of the last car the whole train had passed over the switch. At that critical moment, the switchman, supposing the whole train had passed, turned the switch upon the main track, which threw the rear truck from the rails and upon

sleepers. The bell-cord does not appear to have been connected with the two cars taken on Stony Creek, so that no communication could be had with the engineer of the train by the passengers in these two cars, and as soon as the stalled truck reached the narrow pile bridge, a short distance beyond the switch, the car was returned, and one after another every car in the train followed, with the

switch was of the old or common type. Had it been a well-fitted "safety switch," even with the misplacement of the switch by the switch-tender, the accident could hardly have occurred. It should be stated in extenuation of the apparent carelessness of the switch-tender that, when the door of the switch-house is closed, the tender can only look or communicate with the outside world through a small aperture, and

River-Steamer Explosion.
St. Louis, July 7.—The steamer Belle of Jefferson, running on the Osage River, when about 3 miles of Jefferson City, last night,

ploded her boilers, and is a total loss. A. A. Abard, her Captain, Alexander Stewart, pilot, and John P. Kelley, passenger, were scalded, and how badly is not yet known. Two colored deck-hands are missing, supposed to be drowned.

out 12 o'clock last night, Francis DeLong, of this city, and a Mr. Boyd, of Plainfield, had a collision in the darkness. Boyd was thrown out his buggy and received severe injuries. He was removed to this city, but has been insensible since the accident. He is considered in a critical condition by the attending physicians.

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